

GOOD AFTERNOON, COUNCIL MEMBER CANTANIA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES.

I AM LESLIE HOTALING, DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW). THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION TO REPORT TODAY ON DPW'S ADHERENCE TO THE RULES SET OUT IN THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS ACT.

WHAT WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT TODAY IS SERVICE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND COOPERATION, THE VALUES THAT ARE GUIDING MY LEADERSHIP OF DPW TODAY. COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DISTRICT'S NEIGHBORHOODS IS A KEY ELEMENT IN OUR EFFORTS TO DELIVER RELIABLE, SCHEDULED SERVICES TO THE CITY AND OUR RESIDENTS.

DAN TANGHERLINI, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION IS HERE TO ADDRESS ISSUES SPECIFIC TO DDOT. THEREFORE, I WILL FOCUS MY COMMENTS SPECIFICALLY ON DPW'S INTERACTION WITH DISTRICT ANCS, REGARDING SANITATION, STREET AND ALLEY CLEANING AND PARKING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES.

WE ARE AWARE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE DPW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO DISTRICT RESIDENTS AND TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS. AND WE HOPE THAT WE ARE DOING THAT JOB BETTER. WE CALL IT "MANAGING EXPECTATIONS"

AS YOU KNOW, DPW'S OPERATIONS ARE SCHEDULE-DRIVEN. TRASH COLLECTION AND STREET CLEANING SERVICES ARE DELIVERED CITYWIDE ON A REGULARLY SCHEDULED BASIS. AND, WE HAVE STANDARDS FOR RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION TIMES TO SINGLE-SERVICE REQUESTS FOR

PARKING AND SANITATION ENFORCEMENT, AS WELL AS ABANDONED AUTO REMOVAL.

BUT KEEPING OUR CITY CLEAN IS A CHALLENGE THAT WE ALL MUST SHARE. I KNOW THAT DPW CAN'T BE TOTALLY EFFECTIVE WITHOUT INPUT FROM THE ANCs, WHO HAVE BECOME OUR PARTNERS AND ADVISORS – AND SOMETIMES, OUR CRITICS. ANC REQUESTS, PROPOSALS, VIEWS AND POSITIONS ARE, IN FACT, ALWAYS GIVEN GREAT WEIGHT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

DPW HAS “HEARD THE WORD” FROM ANCs ON SUCH PERENNIAL ISSUES AS PARKING ENFORCEMENT. AT THE BEHEST OF ANCs, DPW CAMPAIGNED FOR, AND RECEIVED FROM THIS COUNCIL, FUNDING TO HIRE MORE PARKING OFFICERS TO PATROL RESIDENTIAL AREAS. WE ARE DEVELOPING OUR DEPLOYMENT PLANS BASED VERY MUCH ON ANC REQUESTS FOR TARGETED PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN SOME NEIGHBORHOODS – YES, WE HAVE HEARD THE ANCs.

FURTHER, WE DO OUR BEST TO GET OUT OF OUR OFFICES AND INTO THE NEIGHBORHOODS. WE DRIVE THE STREETS, JUST LIKE YOU DO. WE COME TO TOWN HALL MEETINGS AND ACCEPT EVERY SPEAKING OPPORTUNITY POSSIBLE. AND WE TRY TO DO MORE LISTENING THAN TALKING.

I THINK BACK TO THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THIS SUMMER’S MASSIVE FLOOD. I ATTENDED AN EMOTIONAL ANC MEETING IN THE HARDEST-HIT AREA OF WARD 5. AT THAT MEETING I LISTENED. WITHIN 24 HOURS, DPW SHIFTED ITS OPERATIONS FROM ROUTINE WORK MODE TO EMERGENCY ACTION MODE. EQUIPMENT, RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL WERE REASSIGNED TO BEGIN A MASSIVE CLEAN UP OF TRASH AND DEBRIS – BEGINNING IN BLOOMINGDALE.

WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE TIRELESS ANC COMMISSIONER, CLEOPATRA JONES, OUR DEPARTMENT BEGAN A SCHEDULE OF 12-HOUR DAYS - UNTIL THE FLOOD CLEAN-UP WAS DONE.

THAT'S THE KIND OF PARTNERSHIP WE CAN ALL BENEFIT FROM AND LEARN FROM. IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT IT IS MY HOPE THAT AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF OUR CORE SERVICES – TOWARD ALL BEING DONE ON A RELIABLE, SCHEDULED BASIS – AND THAT WE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFOCUS OUR COLLECTIVE ENERGY. RATHER THAN FEELING THE NEED TO PUSH GOVERNMENT TO DO ITS JOB, I ENCOURAGE THE ANC COMMISSIONERS TO WORK WITH US TO SET THE VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

AT DPW, WE RECOGNIZE ANCS AS A VALUABLE CONNECTION TO THE DISTRICT'S RESIDENTS AND THEIR NEEDS. IT IS OUR INTENTION AND OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE STRENGTHENING THIS IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION AND THE OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

I AM HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO ASK.